

## Community resources

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courage is contagious

## Viewing cable 05NEWDELHI4761, SOCIOECONOMIC FUTURE OF INDIAN DALITS REMAINS BLEAK

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #05NEWDELHI4761.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05NEWDELHI4761	2005-06-22 13:44	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1568814.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

221344Z Jun 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 NEW DELHI 004761

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2015

TAGS: PHUM PGOV ECON ELAB IN

SUBJECT: SOCIOECONOMIC FUTURE OF INDIAN DALITS REMAINS BLEAK

Classified By: DCM Bob Blake for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

¶1. (C) Summary: Embassy interlocutors report that after one year of UPA rule, limited government efforts to improve dalit (formerly called "Discrimination Remains Despite Legal Protection

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¶2. (U) Dalits, who make up approximately 16% of India's population, roughly 166 million people, occupy the lowest position in the social str  
¶3. (C) Despite the passage of the Anti-Untouchability Act of 1955 and the Prevention of Atrocities Act of 1989, crimes against dalits are sti  
¶4. (C) Ram Nath Kovind, himself a dalit and a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, expressed a more positive view to Poloff recently, stating that ""op  
The Reservation System

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¶5. (U) The GOI uses a system of ""reservations,"" similar to affirmative action programs in the US, in an attempt to ameliorate the social ar  
¶6. (C) Nair argued that the reservation system has only been partially successful in empowering dalits, because they often discriminate again  
¶7. (C) Professor Thorat judged the reservation system as ""only a partial success"" and maintained that its effectiveness will decline in the  
¶8. (C) Centuries of discrimination have confined most dalits to the lowest paying jobs. Thorat claimed that 70% of all dalits live in rural  
Poor Prospects for Improvement

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¶9. (C) Thorat and Justice Party President and Chairman of the All-India Confederation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Organizations  
¶10. (C) Sangh Priya Guatam, a dalit BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state and one of its poorest, agreed that dalits will be left  
GOI-CII Agreement on Reservations

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¶11. (C) Thorat asserted that a June 2 agreement between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of Social Justice and Emp  
¶12. (C) Dalits view the GOI-CII agreement as yet another mechanism to maintain the status quo, according to Raj. He argued that with the BJE  
Solutions?

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¶13. (C) Education programs for Indian youth to increase egalitarian attitudes are the only way to truly break caste discrimination, according  
¶14. (C) Reservations in public education institutions have not translated into enhanced socioeconomic status for dalits, according to Thorat.  
¶15. (C) Raj also questioned whether the GOI was committed to taking effective action to end discrimination against dalits, claiming that most  
Dalit Rights Movements

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¶16. (U) Dalits' perception of their plight varies from region to region, according to Thorat. He noted that the civil rights agitation for c  
¶17. (U) This finds expression in the bitter caste-based politics of the North India ""Hindi Belt"" which has spawned such parties as the dal  
¶18. (U) With dalits estimated to constitute from 16% to 27% of the Indian population, the lack of progress for dalits has both political and  
¶19. (U) Thorat argued that political organizations have also proven ineffective. After 1947, most dalits pledged allegiance to Congress, but  
¶20. (C) Prominent human rights expert Nair stated that dalits need to take their case to the courts if they want to achieve emancipation. He  
Success Stories

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¶21. (U) Despite widespread discrimination, a number of dalits have become successful. The highest profile case is that of K.R. Narayanan, wh  
Comment

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¶22. (C) While the UPA has focused on bettering the lot of the dalit community, it is dominated by upper caste Hindus, very few of whom are ge  
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